



# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 FEBRUARY, 2019 VOL. XXXIV #2

## President's Message

By Robert Vinson

We had a great meeting in January. I was glad to see the turnout of performers. We had more performers than we had time. I want to thank everyone who participated in this event, and those who helped to set up and break down.



Now I hope everyone is ready for the Close-Up contest in February. If you are performing, please contact Richard as soon as possible to be put on the performance list.

I am also looking forward to the March *Performance Workshop* meeting and the opportunity to help others with polishing their magic. This will include everything from getting feedback on your performance of a single trick to helping you with choreography, stage presence, lighting, music and rehearsal techniques.

We have a lot of talent in our Ring. Many members are professionals with years of experience appearing on stage. You do not want to miss this opportunity to benefit from their knowledge.

I will see you February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,  
Robert Vinson

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## Ring 76 2018-19 Calendar

**February 11** - Close-Up Contest\*.

**March 11** - Performance Workshop.

**April 8** - Original effects and/or routines\*.

**May 13** - Stand-Up Contest\*.

**June 10** - Story Magic/ Historical Magic\*.  
Dues due. Election night.

**July 14** - Installation Banquet.

\* Opportunity for Members to Perform

*Our regular monthly meetings are at 7:00 pm  
on the second Monday of the month.*

*The next meeting is on Monday, February 11,  
at the Senior Center in Clairemont*

*4425 Bannock Ave.*

*San Diego, CA 92117*

Direct any questions concerning the calendar  
to V.P. Entertainment Richard Ustick,

[ru9@ring76.com](mailto:ru9@ring76.com).

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PROOFREADER - SHERRY LUFT, PHOTOGRAPHER - JAMES THAYER



## Minutes of the January 14, 2019, Ring 76 Meeting at the Clairemont Sr. Center.

President **Robert Vinson** and Entertainment VP **Richard Ustick** called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Richard announced the upcoming meetings' themes: February is the close-up competition, and March will be "No-Props / Dollar Store Magic", a new theme proposed by the Board. (*Editor's Note: Future theme's have been changed. See Board minutes and announcements by Richard below.*)

The theme of the meeting was also a new topic created by the Board: "Fool Us 2", based roughly (but not enough for copyright infringement) on a popular TV show. Contestants were given approximately 8 minutes to perform a single effect after which the two judges, Ring President **Robert Vinson** and past President **Greg Wauson** two minutes to come up with the method behind the effect.

The arbitrator, **Jeff Marcus**, interviewed each contestant beforehand so that he understood the method and that there was agreement on a key word or two which would demonstrate the judges' understanding. **Jeff** was the final authority on whether the judges were fooled.

Contestants who fooled the judges would receive a custom mounted designed and constructed by member **Gary Salisbury**. **Richard** explained these rules to the Ring, and then the fun night of performances started. Performances were conducted in front of a backdrop with wings which was brought by **Jeff**. The drop provided a professional setting for all of the acts. Thank you, **Jeff**!

**Magic Mike Stillwell** was first up. He called both judges up to his performance table to be the volunteers.

He opened a new deck, had the volunteers examine and shuffle the deck, and then take four red and four black cards. Each packet was mixed, some face up and some face down.

Mike held the packets briefly under the table, and then placed them back on the table to reveal that the face-up and face-down cards were in matching configurations.

He repeated this several times with different numbers of cards. In each case, the face-up and face-down cards matched when the cards were brought up from under the table.

The performance was a win; the judges were fooled. Congratulations!

Mike went on to explain that he learned the trick when he was twelve years old, that it is essentially self-working, and he nicely gave us the method.

**Gary Salisbury** performed an entertaining "Royal Love Story" effect called "Find My Heart!"

Past President **Sherry Luft** played the role of the princess, complete with royal garb and crown. **Dr. Jeff Pearson** played the role of the court jester, with full jester garb. **Gary** played the role of a suitor for the princess, who was but a humble wizard's assistant.

He had a wood handle with numbers 1-9 on a ring representing numbered hearts on a display board. The handle was passed out to the audience to choose a number to display while **Gary's** eyes were closed. **Sherry** was then asked to point to various hearts until he stopped her, at which point she was pointing to the correct one each time.

As a gag, just as she pointed to the correct heart, somehow a humorous electronic noise seemed to come from jester **Jeff**.

The judges demonstrated that they understood the effect but in a cryptic way so as to not reveal the method. **Gary** and **Jeff** judged that they were not fooled. Sorry.

**Bob Meigs** was introduced as his character, Professor Debinoff Nihhoff. He chose **Sherry Luft** to help. **Sherry** chose one of a few cards, which was revealed to have the number 88 on the other side. The Professor then did some calculations and filled in a large 4 x 4 magic square on a pad.



*(Continued from page 2)*

The numbers were drawn to look a bit like the numbers on an old-fashioned calculator. He demonstrated the usual properties of a magic square, getting 88 in any row, column, diagonal, and subgroups of 4 squares.

But wait, there was more! The sheet was turned upside down and, thanks to how the numbers were drawn, the 2's became 5's etc, but the 88 magic still worked. Then the sheet was turned around, giving a mirror image, all of the rows and columns again gave the magic square 88.

Finally, it was turned upside down and backwards and the numbers all still gave 88!

The judges suggested that this must have been a unique situation, with the number 88 forced. But Bob had done the math and devised several such amazing magic squares, so Sherry's choice was not a force. The verdict: a win, congratulations!

**Ken Intriligator** asked for assistance from **Laurie Pearson**, who was given a deck to shuffle, and then she was asked to deal three facedown packets, each with 7 cards. She chose one of the packets for the judges, and asked them to choose one and show the audience.

Laurie then followed Ken's instructions on how to combine the cards with the remaining ones. After a feign and some add-ons to try to mislead the judges, he apparently started to go into the old 21 card trick. But, on the first deal, the chosen card was the only one face down. The judges were not fooled. They correctly identified the key to the method.

**Rich Robertson** asked for assistance from **Laurie Pearson** and **Josh Sherwin** in advance, and told the audience what they did which Laurie and Josh verified.

They had used a calculator to multiply various numbers and placed cards in an envelope according to the digits in the total (ace for 1, etc). Audience members were then given a choice of the cards in the envelope. Rich correctly named each of the cards that was selected by the audience members.

The judges were fooled. Congratulations!

**Malcolm Campbell** had **Tom Owen-Towle** choose from seven newspapers; A recent NY Times was picked. Tom removed a random section from the paper and handed it to another audience member who tore a random page out of the section, noting the page number. (C-19).

A third person tore that page into eight pieces and a fourth selected one, noting a word found on the piece.

**Rich Robertson**, who chose the word "Wednesday" was asked to come forward and write his name on a large envelope which had been sitting on the table, untouched.

It was opened to reveal a second envelope inside which contained a third one which contained a fourth one and another taped to its back.

The fourth contained a printed page which indicated the possibility of predictions.

The taped envelope contained two more nested in it. The inner-most contained a piece of newsprint on which the page number, C19, and "Wednesday" were circled. Wow!

The judges had some idea of what happened but then were fooled at the end.

Congratulations, Malcolm, on the excellent performance and fooling win!

**Bruce Wollitz** discussed a certain kind of magic that is largely unknown to magicians, called PMS: "Properties Magically Switched." He demonstrated PMS by switching the properties of warm and cool. He went through the audience with a plank of wood and a metal pan, offering audience members to feel each and notice that the wood felt warm whereas the metal pan felt cool.

He then applied PMS, putting an ice cube on both the wood and the metal pan, and, voila, the ice cube on the wood did not melt much whereas the one in the metal pan was shown to be quickly melting.

Judge Robert knew the secret — actually the science — behind heat conduction, and mentioned

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a related military application that he knew using wood fibers. Nice demonstration.

**Kenny Shelton** did an effect with cards and the help of **Greg Wauson**, who was given the choice of a card and then asked to lose it in the mix as small packets of cards were placed on the table. Kenny then asked Greg questions about the card, and told Greg that he could either tell the truth or lie on any question, and Kenny would spell to Greg's answer.

First it was court vs non-court card, then suit, then card name cycling through the spelling in a small packet, the spelling stopped at a card, which was indeed the chosen card. Nice effect, and performance!

But the judges knew the main element of how it was done, so it was not a win.

**Winton Gibbons** did an effect with envelopes which had drawings of the five different ESP symbols. **Robert Vincent** helped, and was given five choices from two piles. Winton correctly named all five.

Then it was repeated with a different procedure, and Winton again correctly named all of the choices.

Finally, Robert was given another chance to choose and the last time it was shown that all of Robert's choices were pre-written as a prediction.

The judges got close to knowing the method, but did not mention the fundamental principle (Gilbreath), and it was determined by the arbitrator that this was a win. Congratulations!

All members agreed that this was one of our best performing meetings ever. The theme was a fantastic success and we encourage other Rings to try this format for themselves.

Thank you again to Gary Salisbury for designing and making the award plaques!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00, and many of us went to the nearby Denny's for dinner, dessert, and camaraderie.

..... Ken Intriligator, Secretary

## SHAVINGS FROM THE BOARD



### MINUTES OF RING 76 BOARD MEETING

January 28, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Robert Vinson at 6:50 pm. All the board members were present: First V.P. (Entertainment) Richard Ustick, Second V.P. (Membership) James Thayer, Treasurer Bob Meigs, Sargent-At-Arms John Hunter, Secretary Ken Intriligator, Newsletter Editor and Member-At-Large Malcolm Campbell, Member-At-Large and Past President Joe "Mystic" McGrievy, and Member-At-Large Rich Robertson.

Guests Jeff Marcus, Sherry Luft, and Gary Salisbury were also in attendance.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November Board meeting were approved. There was no December Board meeting.

### REPORTS

**Treasurer's report** - Treasurer Bob Meigs presented his report to the board.

**Membership report** - There are currently 59 members in good standing. Welcome new member Mark Booth.

### OLD BUSINESS

**January meeting recap** - The meeting was a great success. The Fool Us theme was the most successful in memory for getting members to participate who have not done so recently.





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## NEW BUSINESS

**Library discussion** - There was a discussion about having Gary Salisbury take over the library, to help make it more available to our members and to update the inventory.

**Clairemont Senior Center Booking-** There was discussion about the length of time we should contract to pay for. Mike Stillwell had suggested to the person who schedules at the center the possibility of having a show for the seniors in exchange for a discount in our fees for use of the center.

**Close-up competition** - There was more discussion about having the performers do only one show, rather than rotating to different tables, to allow for effects that require a longer setup. A camera and projector (which Joe can bring, together with a tablet that has a camera) and screen could be used to help those farther away to see the close-up action. There could be up to eight performers, with a time limit of eight minutes each.

The pros and challenges of having competition judges was discussed, including inviting members from other Rings to help judge. It was suggested that this was worthy for future discussion, but that there is probably insufficient time to arrange for it this year so the winners this year will be based on popular vote. There was continuing discussion about what to do with the competition if not enough people sign up. It was decided that the competition will go on regardless, and there will be Open Mike opportunity if time permits.

**Making Ring 76 something special – Bob Meigs** presented several creative ideas to enhance the value of the Ring to members and to create more opportunities to reach out to the community and perhaps attract new members. The suggestions included:

Kids' magic for kids at appropriate days and times.

A monthly, or more often, workshop for members to work on routines.

Workshops to teach doing shows rather than single tricks.

Expanded Teach a Trick.

Community profile enhancement.

Improving the entertainment, venue, etc. of the banquets.

**Jeff Marcus** discussed issues related to not exposing secrets to the public. **Richard Ustick** discussed education on performing (vs. just doing tricks).

The Board decided to make the March meeting a workshop where members can get feedback in the form of constructive advice on a trick or routine that they are currently working on. Various pros and cons of how to structure such a meeting, so that everyone can gain from it were discussed.

**Installation Banquet:** Bob suggests having a committee of a few people to plan the banquet, and to try to outdo those of past years. Robert suggested looking into having a BBQ.

## NEWSLETTER

**Malcolm Campbell** presented what would be needed for the Newsletter.

The board meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Ken Intriligator, Secretary

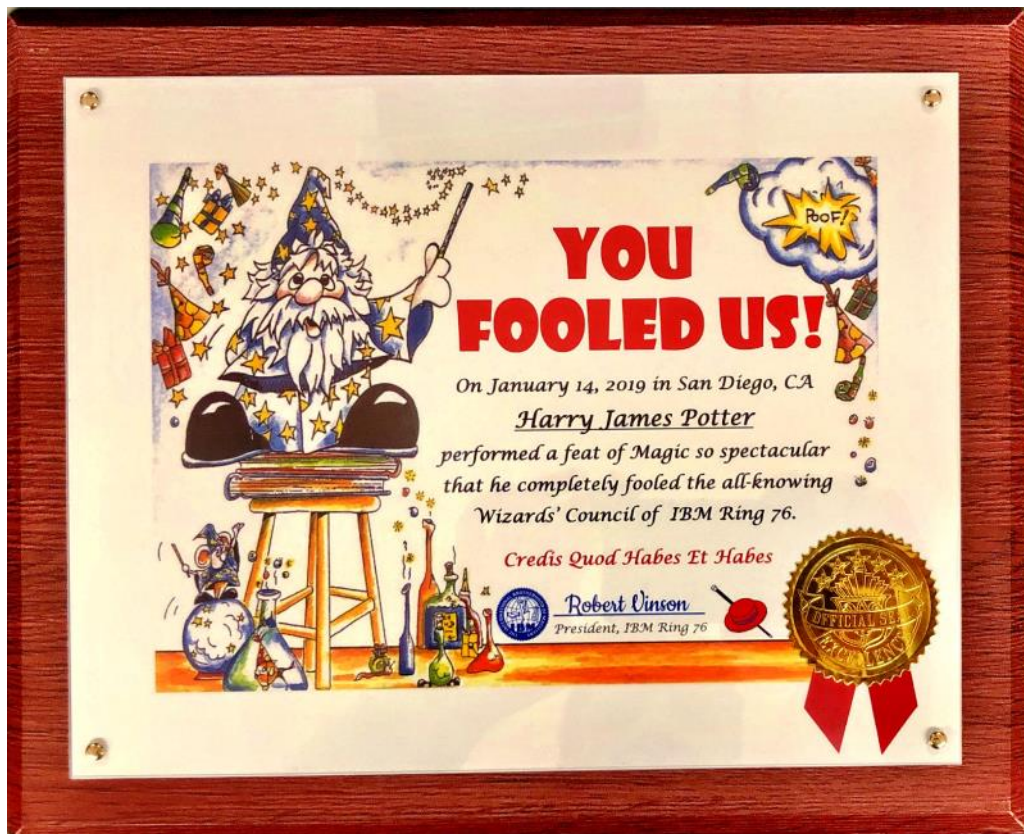
## FOOL US 2



Richard Ustick explains rules.



Judges and Arbitrator in place.



The Award to all who fool the judges.





Greg and Robert assist Mike with card packets which replicate each other.



Princess Sherry and Jester Jeff help Prince Gary pick audience-selected heart.



Sherry assists as Bob creates Magic Square that works 40 ways.

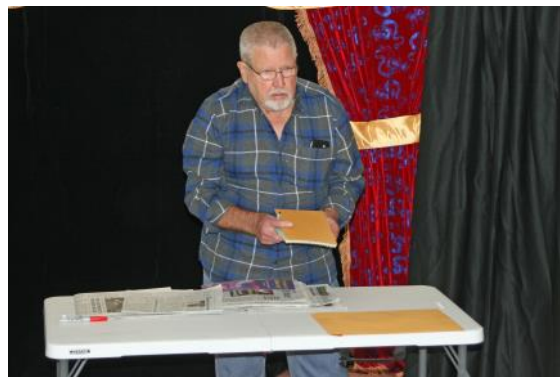


Card chosen by Laurie is lost in multiple packets before showing up as only face down card.





**Rich correctly predicts numbers on cards drawn from envelopes by volunteers.**



**Rich retrieves prediction, buried by Malcolm in 5 layers of envelopes.**



**Bruce shows ice melting on cold pan but not on warm board.**



**Kenny successfully spells to Greg's card after series of truth or lie answers to questions.**







Winton correctly predicts ESP cards selected by Robert.



The contestants.





**FEBRUARY IS NOT JUST  
ABOUT VALETINES.  
ON FEBRUARY 11TH,  
IT'S ABOUT .....**

## **CLOSE-UP!**

*That is right, this February 11th at the regular Ring Meeting, the cream of Ring talent will be competing to see who is Close-Up Performer of the Year.*

*There will be a few changes this year, though the usual rules are still posted on the Ring 76 website and I encourage all participants to check that out at Ring76.com. We will not be doing the multi-table performances this year. Contestants will be at a table in front of the Ring and asked to show their style only once.*

*We will strive to make the setting as intimate as we can, and there will be a camera and projector set up so that everyone can get a good view.*

*Due to time constraints, we have to limit the number of contestants to 8 with a time limit of 8 minutes. We want to be sure we have the maximum number of contestants our allotted time will allow.*

*If you are interested in performing, contact Richard Ustick at Ring76ibm@yahoo.com. Sign-up will close on Friday, February 8th. .... Richaard Ustick*



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE MARCH 2019 MEETING

With the success of the recent “Fool Me 2 contest”, the Board of Directors decided to make some changes to a few of the meetings for the rest of the year. As a result, the March meeting has been changed to a Performance Workshop night where members can get positive feedback from our more experienced members on effects and performances on which they have been working.

There will be several stations offering performance critiques. If you have no effect in particular to work on, there will be a variety of information and ideas that will interest you.

All members are invited to bring their questions and problems to this event. It will be a good time to work on your skills in a more intimate setting than before the whole Ring center stage.

We have a lot of talent in Ring 76 and would like to see more of it at each meeting. This workshop will help you to gain the confidence and skills you need to show off your abilities anywhere you like.

Mark your calendars for the March 11th Ring meeting: “A Magician's Workshop.”

,..... Richard Ustick

### FOCUS ON THE LINKING RING



Traveling around the U.S.A. or around the Globe? There are more than 250 opportunities to visit another I.B.M. Ring.

Pages 74 and 75 of the January issue list all of the active Rings. The article mentions that Ring meeting details can be found in the published Ring reports. Rings also often have web sites with meeting and contact information as well.

..... Editor



## NOTES AND REMINDERS



**MagiCurrents offers paid advertising for magic-related items from non-members. The rate is \$60.00 per page per issue.**

**Remember**, we are looking for product reviews. It doesn't matter if you liked what you paid for or not, we want your opinion for the benefit of the rest of the members. If you're not a writer, we can arrange a short sit-down to gather the facts and write the review.

Have magic to sell, stage equipment to rent? Looking for something to buy or rent? Need a ride or have room for a passenger to an out of town event such as the Magic Castle?

Have a special skill or service another member might use? Need a temporary assistant?

**Advertise it at no cost to Ring 76 members in MagiCurrents**

### LIBRARY REMINDER

Ring 76 has a large library of books DVD's, even VHS tapes covering every phase of magic. All of the materials are available for members to check out and use at home.

Kenny Shelton, our Librarian, regularly brings a sampling to our meetings and those are available for immediate check out. You may not know that the "Library" link on our website leads you to a complete list. If you find something there that you would like to use, contact Kenny at [magicjugglerks@gmail.com](mailto:magicjugglerks@gmail.com). Tell him what you want and he will bring it to the next meeting.

The intended publication date of each issue of MagiCurrents is the Friday 9 days before the monthly meeting.

Submissions from officers, reporters and other members are due the Wednesday before the publication date. If you want *your* newsletter on time, please be prompt!!

.... editor